

Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 13 have been amended and Claim 2 cancelled, with the details set forth in Attachment I (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made). The Examiner proposed change to Claim 15 would render the claim indefinite. No change is deemed needed.

The 35 USC 112 Rejection

Claim 1-4 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The objections to Claims 1 and 13 have been overcome by the amendments thereto. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Faita et al. As now amended, Claim 1 sets forth an “internal manifold included aligned openings in adjacent components” which feature is clearly not taught by this reference. The Examiner is called upon to specifically point out where the features of Claims 5 and 15 are taught by this reference. Where are the claimed “at least one pair of opening” and the “spaced openings” of Claims 5 and 15 set forth? It is submitted that the structural features of these claims, particularly as now amended, are not taught by Faita et al, and thus this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Faita et al in view of Akiyama et al. The Examiner admits that Faita et al fail to teach that “the interconnect plates” have “flow channels therebetween”. Akiyama fails to tell that the flow channels include aligned openings in the adjacent components as claimed. Thus, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing comments, each objection and rejection is deemed to have been overcome. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance based on Claims 1, and 13-19.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L.E. Carnahan", written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosure:
Attachment I

Attachment I
S.N. 09/769,211
Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In The Claims:

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 13, amend to read as follows:

1. (Amended) In a planar fuel cell stack, the improvement comprising:
means for providing co-flow of fuel and oxidant gases, and
means for surface sealing a cell so as to provide an increased effective seal area [improved] and durability of the seal[.].
said means for providing co-flow includes an integral, internal manifold for each of the fuel and oxidant gases.
said internal manifold including aligned openings in adjacent components.

5. (Amended) A co-flow planar fuel cell, including:
a first interconnect plate,
a cell casing/holder plate having an aperture,
a fuel cell, and
a second interconnect plate,
said first and second interconnect plates and said cell casing/holder plates each having at least one pair of openings therein located in an end section thereof and aligned with an adjacent plate for co-flow of a gaseous fuel and an oxidant therethrough, said fuel cell being peripherally mounted in said cell casing/holder plate on a surface of a rim section located adjacent said aperture.

7. (Amended) The fuel cell of Claim 5, wherein each of said first and second interconnect plates and said cell casing/holder plate is provided with at least one pair of openings located in both end sections thereof and wherein said openings in adjacent

not the
reg. rim
plate

- plates are aligned to provide co-flow of said gaseous fuel and said oxidant therethrough.

13. (Amended) The fuel cell of Claim 12, additionally including a plurality of radially extending slots [of any shapes and dimensions] extending from each of said one of said opening of each of said pairs of openings to provide gas flow distribution.

Claim 2, cancel.